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Tender

## Design Excellence Panel

West Midlands Combined Authority

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-064878

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-055b19 ([view related notices](#))

Published 13 October 2025, 3:47pm

## Scope

## Reference

PRT-TFWM-WPG-2025-0007

## Description

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), is committed to delivering high-quality, inclusive, and sustainable transport infrastructure that aligns with the region's strategic objectives. Recognising the critical role of design in shaping user experience, safety, and long-term value, TfWM is establishing a Design Excellence Panel as a key mechanism to embed design thinking from the outset of project development.

The Panel will act as a critical friend to project teams, offering independent, expert advice at key stages of the project lifecycle. It will support the delivery of TfWM's Local Transport Plan and its six (6) Big Moves, ensuring that all schemes, whether rail, bus, tram, or active travel, are functional, inclusive, and contextually responsive. The Panel will champion a co-design approach, fostering collaboration across disciplines and with communities to create places that are accessible, safe, and welcoming for all, particularly women, girls, and disabled people.

The Design Excellence Panel will operate initially under a three-year programme, with periodic reviews to ensure its continued relevance and impact. Workshops will be held bi-monthly, with flexibility to increase frequency based on project demand. Site visits will be arranged as required to support a 'no site boundary' approach-encouraging consideration of wider spatial and social context.

The Panel will consist of approximately twenty (20) individuals (members) drawn from a diverse range of disciplines, including:

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Inclusive Design
- Heritage and Conservation
- Urban Planning
- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Public Health
- Sustainability
- Access Consultancy
- Place Curation
- The Arts

Panel members must either live in or have demonstrable experience working within the West Midlands, ensuring a strong understanding of local context and community needs.

The Panel will:

- Provide design assurance aligned with TfWM's strategic goals
- Champion inclusive, safe and sustainable design
- Support the development of Design Guides
- Promote cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge-sharing

- Contribute to post-occupancy evaluations and continuous improvement

The Panel will not:

- Override statutory or technical standards
- Make decisions on budgets or procurement
- Enforce recommendations-these remain advisory

### **Total value (estimated)**

- £240,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 9 February 2026 to 8 February 2027
- Possible extension to 8 February 2029
- 3 years

Description of possible extension:

Contracts will include two (2) x 12-month options to extend at WMCA's sole discretion.

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **CPV classifications**

- 71220000 - Architectural design services
- 71240000 - Architectural, engineering and planning services
- 71320000 - Engineering design services
- 92312000 - Artistic services
- 71400000 - Urban planning and landscape architectural services
- 71313000 - Environmental engineering consultancy services

## **Contract locations**

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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## **Participation**

### **This procurement is reserved for**

Suppliers from West Midlands

### **Conditions of participation**

Panel members must have worked and/or lived within the West Midlands for the last 5 Years.

Panel members must understand the constraints, regulations, and professional standards that apply to the delivery of multi-modal transport projects across the West Midlands.

### **Particular suitability**

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

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## **Submission**

### **Enquiry deadline**

31 October 2025, 5:00pm

### **Tender submission deadline**

7 November 2025, 5:00pm

### **Submission address and any special instructions**

<https://wmca.bravosolution.co.uk/go/712548820199DCAA6641>

### **Tenders may be submitted electronically**

Yes

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## **Award criteria**

All suppliers who submit a response before the submission deadline will have their submissions scored in line with the criteria outlined in the RfI document. A minimum score of 35 (50%) will be required in order to Pass the Technical Evaluation. Any bidders who score less than 35 on the Technical Evaluation will Fail and will not progress further in the process. All submissions that score 35 or more will be ranked by score within each discipline/specialism listed in Qualification Question 3 ('Other' is classed as 1 discipline).

The top 2 ranked submissions for each discipline/specialism will be appointed to the Design Excellence Panel. If a discipline/specialism does not have 2 ranked submissions, then that place/s on the panel will be assigned to the highest scoring 3rd placed submission across all disciplines/specialisms. This process will continue for the next highest scoring 3rd placed submissions in-turn until all places on the panel have been assigned. If all 3rd placed submissions are appointed, the process will move to the highest scoring 4th placed submissions, and so on. Where there are 2 submissions with the same total technical score, the submission with the highest total score across Technical Questions 3, 5 & 6 will be appointed to the panel.

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## **Procedure**

### **Procedure type**

Below threshold - open competition

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## **Contracting authority**

### **West Midlands Combined Authority**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGMD-1353-PZVX

16 Summer Lane

Birmingham

B19 3SD

United Kingdom

Email: [procurement.team@wmca.org.uk](mailto:procurement.team@wmca.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.WMCA.org.uk>

Region: UKG31 - Birmingham

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government